* A Scheme for providing financial incentive to the exporters for meeting part of cost of handling, packaging, transporfrfreight charges has also been introduced by the Government.

* A Quality Upgradation Programme had been launched by the Tea Board for improving quality tea manufactured by small growers in the country.

Tea Marketing (Control) Order 1984 has been modified to remove the condition of obligatory sale of 75% of tea production through public tea auctions. The producers of tea are now free to sell any quantity of tea through public tea auctions.

A Generic promotion campaign has been launched for improving the consumption of tea within the country.

The basic customs duty on import of tea has been increased from 70% to 100% as announced in the Budget of 2002-2003.

Tea Board has also prepared a medium term export strategy for tea for the next five years by engaging a consultant.

* The sale of tea in the Domestic Tariff Area by 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and units in Export Processing Zones (EPZs) has been banned.

Monetary benefits to exporters

†1645. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have implemented various schemes for providing economic assistance to promote export from the country; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of such schemes and the average annual amount given to the exporters as economic relief under each scheme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing schemes for providing access to duty free/concessional duty inputs to exporters, Inline with the international trade preactices, the duty exemption scheme permits duty free import of inputs used in the export product. Similarly, under the DEPB scheme, neutralisation of the duties suffered on the inputs for manufacturing the export product is permitted. In addition, the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme permits concessional duty import of capital goods for export production. The Comptroller and Auditor General in their annual report have estimated that the amounts involved in providing such indirect tax rebates under the various schemes are as under:—

s. No.	Export promotion schemes	1997-98 (Rs. Cr)	1998-99 (Rs. Cr)	1999-2000 (Rs. Cr)
1.	Advance Licence	3547	3615	3804
2.	EPZ	1200	974	1096
3.	100% EOU	2004	2178	2938
4.	EPCG	1385	1343	1299
5.	Duty drawback	3661	4081	4257
6.	DEPB	469	2631	4063